Mental Retardation

†2765. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disease of mental retardation (Dowsis Syndrome) is found in many children by birth;

(b) if so, whether Government have found out any medicine for treatment of the said disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any research is being carried out regarding medicine for this disease; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Mental retardation resulting from Down's Syndrome is found since birth in some children. As of now, there is no medical or surgical treatment to cure Down's Syndrome as it is a genetic disorder. However, early developmental intervention for babies having Down's Syndrome is considered to be beneficial to improve their functioning. Some medicines are useful in treatment of associated physical complication like epilepsy, hypothyroidism, heart diseases, etc.

(e) and (f) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has carried out multicentric studies on genetic causes of mental retardation in India and genetic counseling and antenatal diagnosis of common genetic disorders. Some research institutions in USA are carrying out research on treatment on Down's Syndrome.

Quality Standards for Bottled Water

2766. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the final norms for pesticide residue in packaged drinking water were passed recently;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the analysis shall be conducted by using internationally established test meeting the residue limits; and

(d) if so, whether there are sufficient number of test labs to carry out these tests?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The norms or Pesticide residues in Packaged Drinking Water have been revised vide notification GSR No. 554(E) dated 18th July 2003.

The norms are as under:—

(i) Pesticide residues-Not more than 0.0001 mg/litre considered individually.

(The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein).

(ii) Total Pesticide residues-Not more than 0.0005 mg/litre.

(The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein).

(d) While laboratories have been identified by BIS and are also existing in the Government Sector, it is the continuous endeavour of the Government to provide the required infrastructure for this purpose.

Ayurvedic Doctors

2767. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND" FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic CMOs are not authorized to refer the patients directly to the referral hospitals/Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;